

EBSA News



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MEDIA ADVISORY

HIPAA and Other Health Laws: North Carolina Compliance Assistance Seminar

WASHINGTON--The Compliance Assistance Seminar sponsored by the U. S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) and the North Carolina Department of Insurance, will take place in Durham, N.C., on Oct. 28-29, 2003 at the Durham Marriott Hotel-Civil Center, 201 Foster St.

The free seminar is part of an ongoing series of seminars sponsored by the Labor Department under its Health Benefits Education Campaign (HBEC). The campaign helps workers and employers, especially small businesses, understand their rights and obligations under various health benefit laws.

On October 28, the session runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The opening session by the Labor Department and North Carolina Department of Insurance will provide an overview of HIPAA and the state's insurance regulations. The session on "HIPAA Portability and Availability" will present basic requirements for group health plan administrators and group health insurance issuers on health coverage provisions under Part 7 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The first day will also include a session by the Labor Department on HIPAA regulations relating to the nondiscrimination provisions, Mental Health Parity Act, the Newborns and Mothers' Health Protection Act, and the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act. This session is a compliance assistance workshop that is part of the department's HIPAA Compliance Assistance Program (H-CAP). Departmental staff will walk seminar attendees through a self-audit checklist and provide tips on how to bring group health plans into compliance.

The October 29 session is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The first session will discuss the claims regulations of the Labor Department followed by a discussion on COBRA dealing with IRS/COBRA guidance and the Labor Department's proposed COBRA notice regulation as well as compliance-related issues under the North Carolina continuation coverage provisions. The Department of Health and Human Services will hold sessions to discuss administrative simplification requirements and compliance with HIPAA's privacy requirements.

Panel participants will include representatives from EBSA, the North Carolina Department of Insurance, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Registration is on a first come, first served basis, with only limited spaces available (see seminar brochure). Parties should register early by email to: Deborah A. Milne at damilne@msn.com. For registration information, contact EBSA at www.dol.gov/ebsa or (315) 762-4665.

Upcoming seminars will be held in:

- ?? Oklahoma City, Okla. (Nov. 5, 2003)
- ?? Lansing, Mich. (Dec. 1, 2003)

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